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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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cc: Mr. R. J. Boyle - Indpls.  
Mr. J. Ryan - Indpls.

Mr. P. C. REILLY - H.D.L.S.

St. Louis Park

Mr. H. L. Finch

February 23, 1972

SAFETY

The St. Louis Park plant was very fortunate in December and January not to have had a lost time injury or an injury of any significance. In fact our first injury in February occurred on 2-21-72 at 10:00 A.M. when Mr. Lawrence Vincent had an accident in the lumber yard while framing crossing timbers. A crossing timber that was in the process of being framed and transferred from one machine to another slid off the conveyor and cracked a bone in Mr. Lawrence's left foot. The roller conveyor is approximately 3' high and is a permanent conveyor along which crossing timbers of the 7x3 dimension ranging from 6" to 16" in length travel between framing machines. This is an accident that should not have occurred and probably will not occur again.

The 1971-72 winter in St. Louis Park has been one of the colder winters. With an unusual cold period one could expect an accident but again we were fortunate that this did not occur. We might briefly examine the why of our three month period without an accident (November 23, 1971 to February 21, 1972). Certainly a part of this non accident period has been the result of our active company policy toward accident prevention. Also, at St. Louis Park, the work effort has not been on a go-go-go basis as the varieties in our business have necessarily decreased with the pending closure. Yet, by the same token, the volume processed in the treating plant in December and January was above our ten year averages for these two months. It is my belief that the more planned the operation to production, the less likely we are to have an accident. And, the third factor that may have contributed to our non accident period is that we are not introducing new personnel into the organization. The combination and the relation of the three factors above certainly point toward the safety record we have experienced in the last three months.

Please find attached a safety inspection conducted by Mr. Ess and Mr. Lindberg of the plant facilities on January 20th.

Mr. Brown, our Fire Marshall, gave us his report on the condition of the fire extinguishers as of January 6th, attached. Mr. Brown has also followed up with me verbally on several occasions concerning the fire protection in the plant this winter. While we have had plenty of snow and, therefore, the incidents of fire in our yard would not be great, we do have to be extremely watchful of the fire safety conditions that result from our thawing out lines during the extreme cold weather.

Yours very truly,

H. L. Finch

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HLP:go  
Attachments